DARK HORSE COMICS
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#8
Will Eisner
EISNER AWARD WINNER!
THE GOON™
THE VAMPIRE DAME HAD TO DIE!
by Eric Powell

The nameless man, the zombie priest, had come to town to build a gang from the undead. But even the undead fear...

THE GOON™

by Eric Powell

color assists by
Robin Powell,
Shaynne Corbett, and
Barry Gregory

edited by **Matt Dryer** designed by **Amy Arendts**
published by **Mike Richardson**

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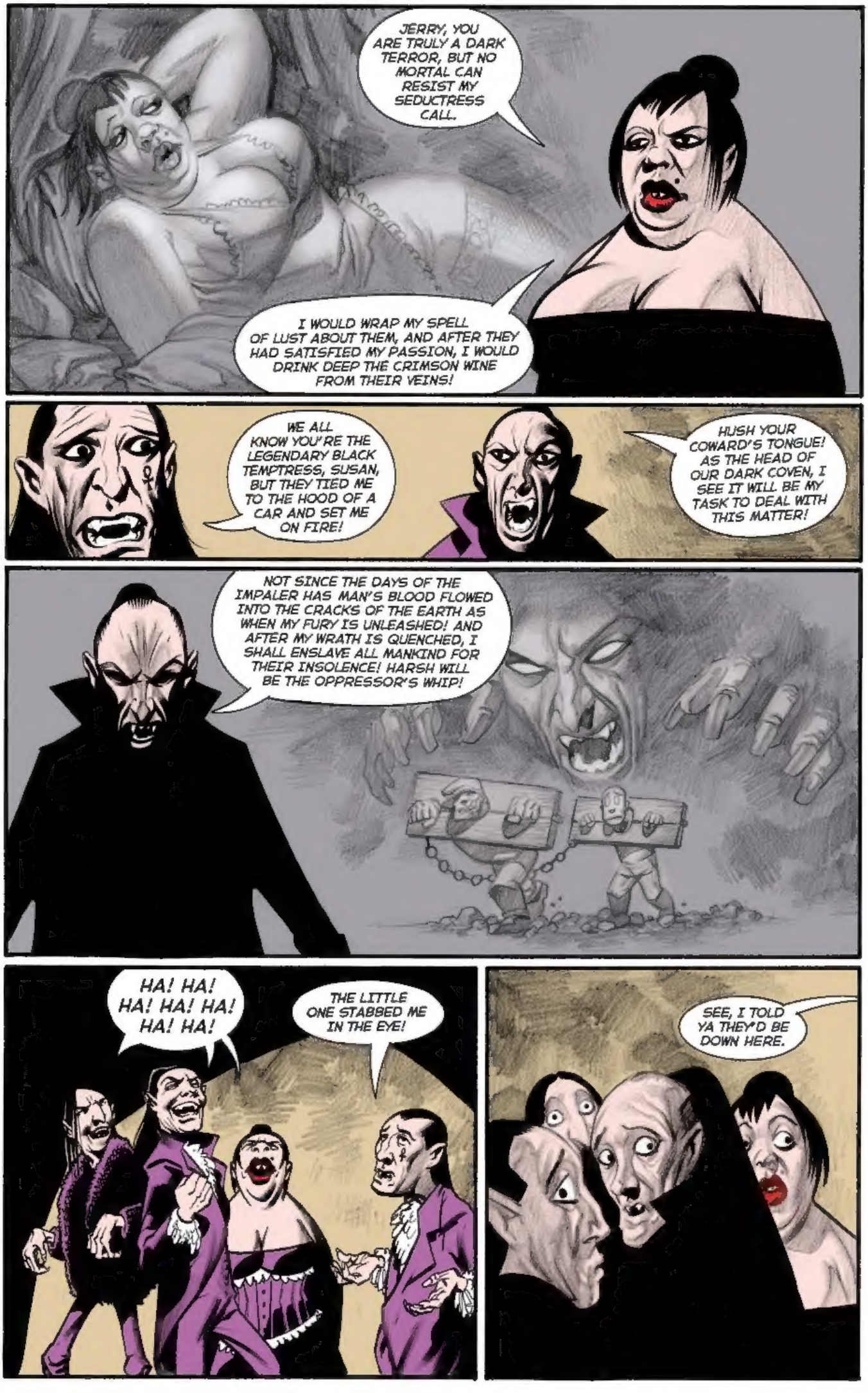
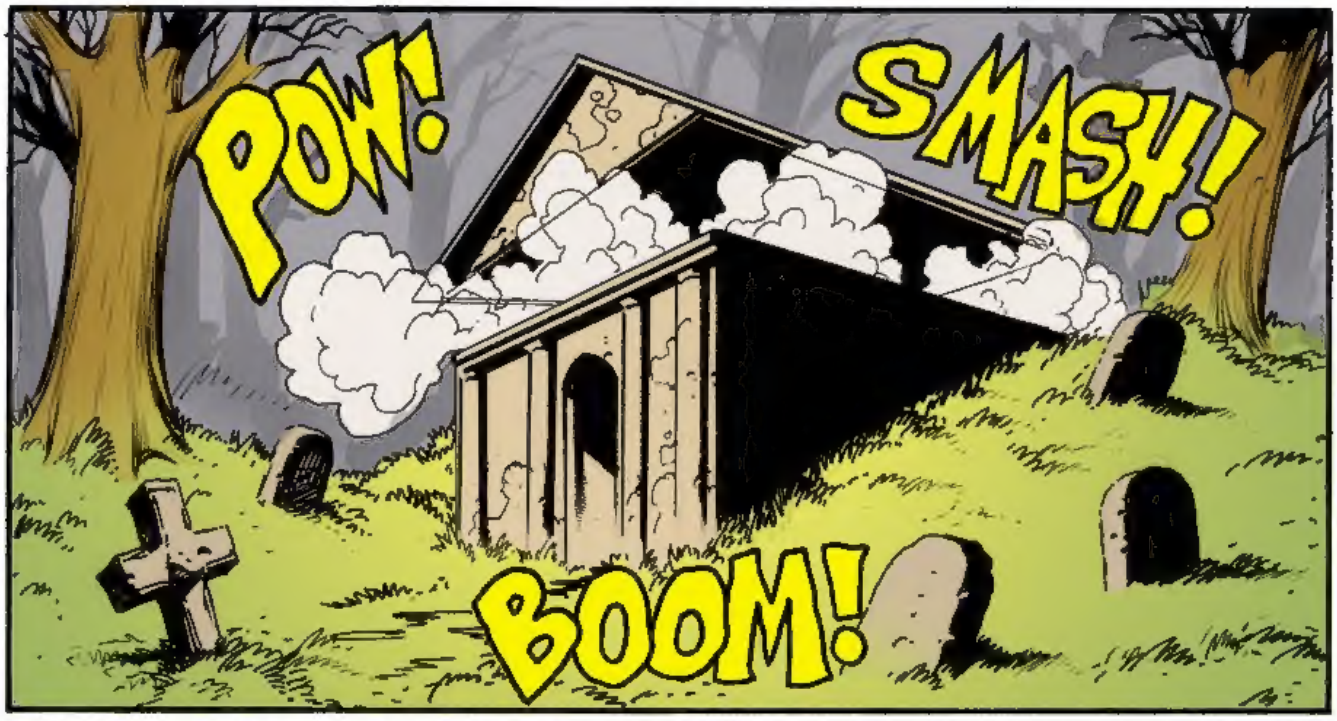
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... PEACHES VALENTINE.
CHICK MAGNET
CHICK MAGNET

CHICK MAGNET
CHICK MAGNET
2004 NOMINEE FOR FOUR EISNER AWARDS!
THE SYMBOLISM OF THE DEFECATING IDIOT IS CLEARLY A STATEMENT OF POWELL'S FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY.
HE MOCKS HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE PERCEIVES IS UNDESERVED RECOGNITION.
GENIUS!
YA DON'T SAY.
BLAM!
SOMETIMES A SIMPLETON-PLAYIN'-IN-HIS-OWN-FILTH-AND-GETTIN'-SHOT-IN-THE-FACE JOKE IS JUST A SIMPLETON-PLAYIN'-IN-HIS-OWN-FILTH-AND-GETTIN'-SHOT-IN-THE-FACE JOKE! WE DON'T CARE FER YER FANCY-PANTS SYMBOLISMS AROUND HERE! NOW BEAT IT!!
AH! HE'S POINTING HIS PHALLIC REPRESENTATION OF MAN'S MORTALITY AT US! RUN!

THE VAMPIRE DAME HAD TO DIE!
MY BRETHREN, ONE OF OUR NUMBER HAS SHAMED US!
HE HAS ALLOWED MORTALS TO MAKE CRUEL SPORT OF HIM! TRULY THE DARK RIVER DOES NOT PERMEATE NEIL'S SOUL!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT, LARRY! IT WAS THE GOON AND FRANKY!
I SWEPT DOWN UPON THEM WITH MY EBON WINGS OF FEAR BUT THEY KICKED ME IN MY LITTLE BEE-HIND.
DISGRACE! YOU SHOULD BE DISPELLED FROM THE CRYPT AND YOUR FANGS PULLED!
WHY, IF THESE MORTALS WERE BEFORE ME THEY WOULD KNOW THE OFFSPRING OF THE VOID! I WOULD COME UPON THEM AS A GREAT HOUND AND THEIR BOWELS WOULD EMPTY WHEN THEY GAZED UPON MY HORRIBLE VISAGE! YES, THEY WOULD SMELL THE SMELL OF THEIR OWN POOP THAT DAY!


JERRY, YOU ARE TRULY A DARK TERROR, BUT NO MORTAL CAN RESIST MY SEDUCTRESS CALL.
I WOULD WRAP MY SPELL OF LUST ABOUT THEM, AND AFTER THEY HAD SATISFIED MY PASSION, I WOULD DRINK DEEP THE CRIMSON WINE FROM THEIR VEINS!
WE ALL KNOW YOU'RE THE LEGENDARY BLACK TEMPTRESS, SUSAN, BUT THEY TIED ME TO THE HOOD OF A CAR AND SET ME ON FIRE!
HUSH YOUR COWARD'S TONGUE! AS THE HEAD OF OUR DARK COVEN, I SEE IT WILL BE MY TASK TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER!
NOT SINCE THE DAYS OF THE IMPALER HAS MAN'S BLOOD FLOWED INTO THE CRACKS OF THE EARTH AS WHEN MY FURY IS UNLEASHED! AND AFTER MY WRATH IS QUENCHED, I SHALL ENSLAVE ALL MANKIND FOR THEIR INSOLENCE! HARSH WILL BE THE OPPRESSOR'S WHIP!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
THE LITTLE ONE STABBED ME IN THE EYE!
SEE, I TOLD YA THEY'D BE DOWN HERE.

CHARLIE NOODLES SAID HE SAW ONE OF 'EM RUN DOWN HERE CRYIN' WHEN HE PUNCHED IT IN THE MOUTH FER LOOKIN' AT HIM.
OKAY, WHICH ONE OF YA TRIED TA BITE THAT FOUR YEAR-OLD KID WHAT LIVES BELOW ME?!
THE BRAT'S BEEN UP ALL HOURS WITH THE NIGHTMARES, AND I AIN'T GOT DECENT SHUT-EYE IN A WEEK 'CAUSE OF HER BALLIN'! SOMEBODY'S GONNA PAY, AND I AIN'T SLUGGIN' NO FOUR YEAR-OLD!
AAHHH!!
QUICKLY, SUSAN! WORK YOUR SEDUCTRESS SPELL ON THEM!
YOU WOULDN'T STRIKE A WOMAN, WOULD YOU?
LADY, TILL FRANKY AND ME WALKED IN, YOU WAS THE CLOSEST THING TO A MAN IN THE PLACE.

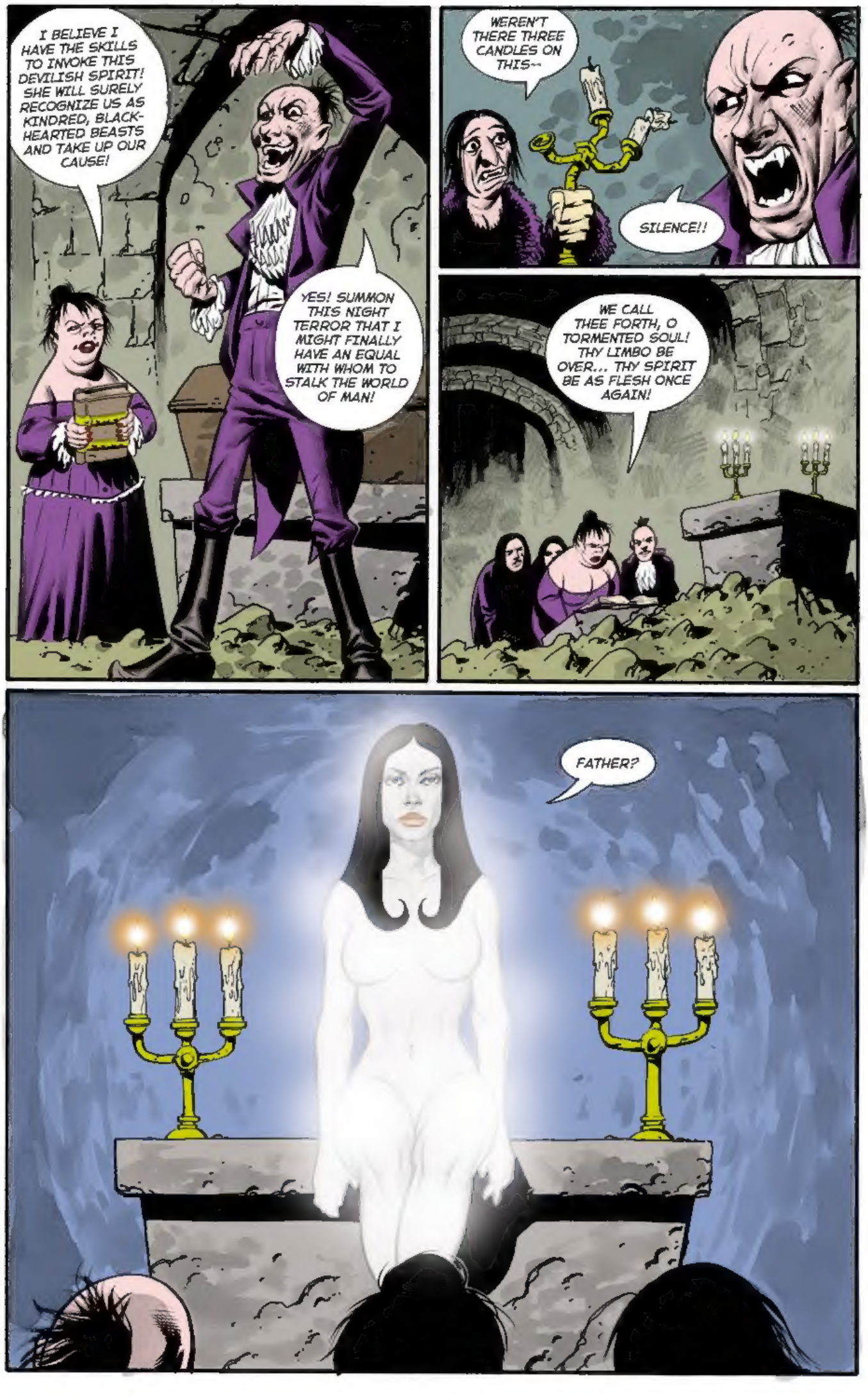

POW!
SMASH!
BOOM!

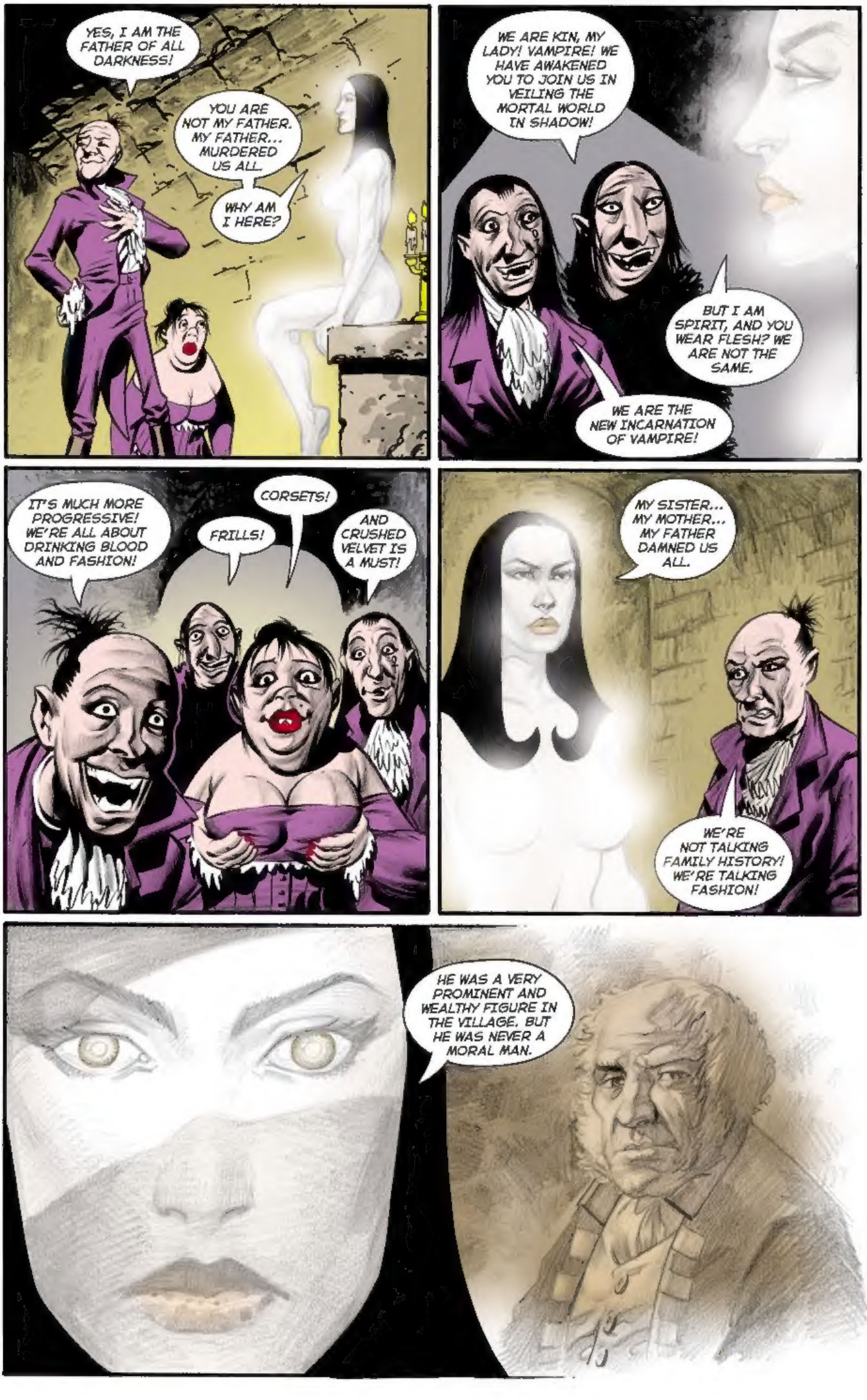
WHEN THE DARK POWERS HAVE RESTORED ME, HE SHALL KNOW THE BLACK BITE OF MY--
OH SHUT UP, LARRY!

NO, YOU HUSH UP! I'M THE MASTER OF THIS COVEN, AND I WILL DO THE SHUSHING WHEN THERE IS SHUSHING TO BE DONE!
SOME MASTER! GOON SMASHED YOUR FACE AGAINST THE CRYPT WALL AND THEN SHOVED THE CANDELABRA UP YOUR--
WE WILL NOT SPEAK OF THE CANDELABRA!!

MY BROOD! IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE REDEEM OURSELVES IN THE EYES OF THE MASTER OF THE PIT, LEST WE LOSE FAVOR!
YES, AND I BELIEVE I HAVE THE KEY TO OUR REDEMPTION!

AS YOU KNOW, I AM A STUDENT OF THE BLACK ARTS AS WELL AS TORMENTER OF MEN'S LIBIDOS. IN MY STUDIES I CAME ACROSS THE ACCOUNT OF A LEGENDARY SUCCUBUS THAT ONCE RAVAGED THIS AREA WITH HER SERPENTINE KISS!

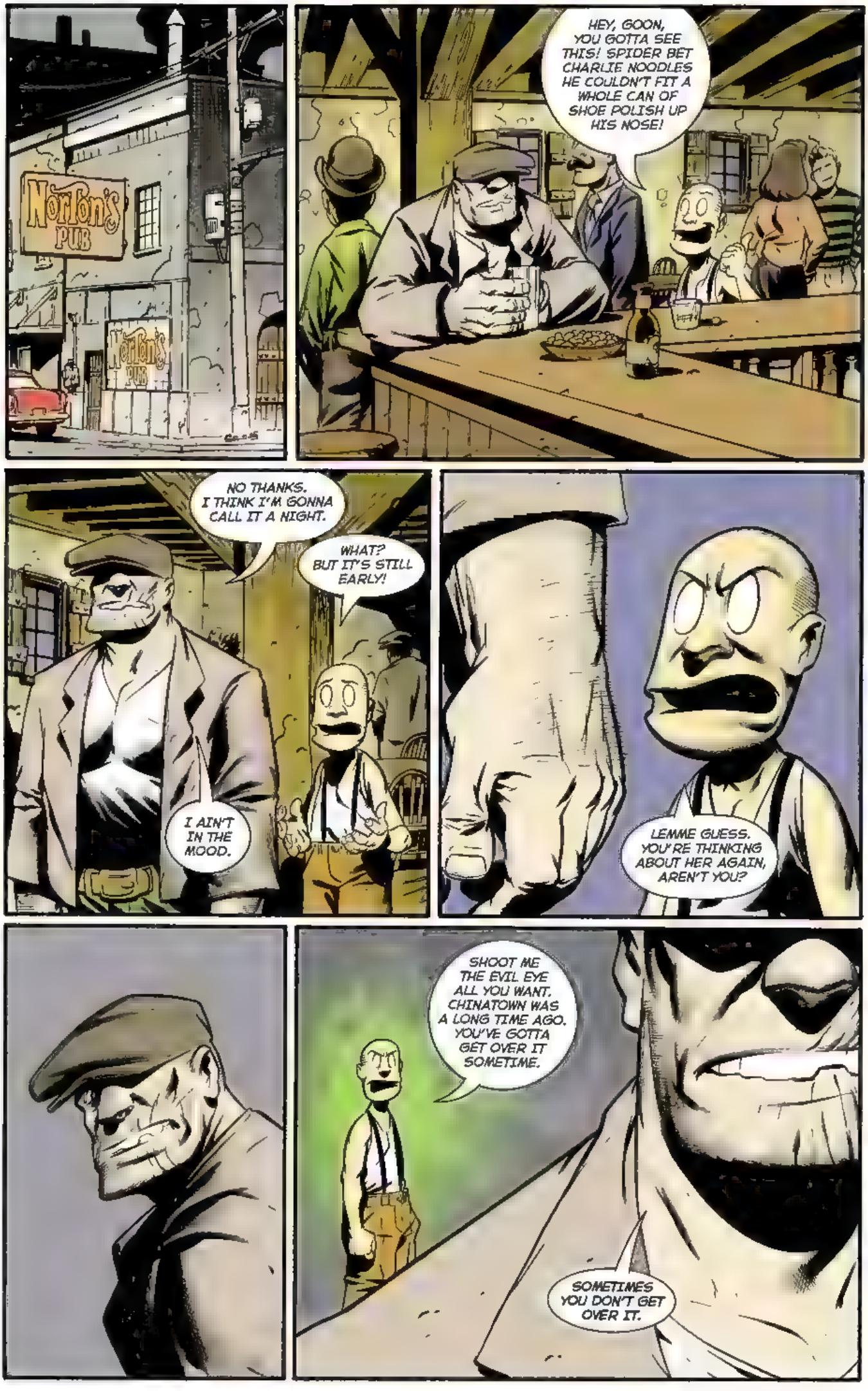

I BELIEVE I HAVE THE SKILLS TO INVOKE THIS DEVILISH SPIRIT! SHE WILL SURELY RECOGNIZE US AS KINDRED, BLACK-HEARTED BEASTS AND TAKE UP OUR CAUSE!
YES! SUMMON THIS NIGHT TERROR THAT I MIGHT FINALLY HAVE AN EQUAL WITH WHOM TO STALK THE WORLD OF MAN!
WEREN'T THERE THREE CANDLES ON THIS--
SILENCE!!
WE CALL THEE FORTH, O TORMENTED SOUL! THY LIMBO BE OVER... THY SPIRIT BE AS FLESH ONCE AGAIN!
FATHER?


YES, I AM THE FATHER OF ALL DARKNESS!
YOU ARE NOT MY FATHER. MY FATHER... MURDERED US ALL.
WHY AM I HERE?
WE ARE KIN, MY LADY! VAMPIRE! WE HAVE AWAKENED YOU TO JOIN US IN VEILING THE MORTAL WORLD IN SHADOW!
BUT I AM SPIRIT, AND YOU WEAR FLESH? WE ARE NOT THE SAME.
WE ARE THE NEW INCARNATION OF VAMPIRE!
IT'S MUCH MORE PROGRESSIVE! WE'RE ALL ABOUT DRINKING BLOOD AND FASHION!
FRILLS!
CORSETS!
AND CRUSHED VELVET IS A MUST!
MY SISTER... MY MOTHER... MY FATHER DAMNED US ALL.
WE'RE NOT TALKING FAMILY HISTORY! WE'RE TALKING FASHION!
HE WAS A VERY PROMINENT AND WEALTHY FIGURE IN THE VILLAGE, BUT HE WAS NEVER A MORAL MAN.

HE HAD AN AFFAIR WITH A WOMAN SOME SAID WAS A WITCH. WHEN WORD OF THIS GOT OUT, HE ACCUSED HER OF PLACING HIM UNDER A SPELL TO SAVE HIS OWN REPUTATION. THEY BURNED HER ALIVE.
"WITH HER LAST BREATH SHE SPAT A CURSE UPON MY FATHER. HE BECAME ILL. WE CARED FOR HIM THE BEST WE COULD, BUT HE SLOWLY DWINDLED. HE KNEW HIS END WAS NEAR. HE BECAME A BITTER WRETCHED THING IN BODY AND SOUL. WHEN HE FINALLY DIED IT WAS MORE OF A RELIEF TO US THAN A SORROW. WE BURIED HIM THAT VERY MORNING, BUT IN THE NIGHT I AWOKE TO HIM STANDING OVER MY BED.
"I FELL ILL AS HE HAD DONE. NO ONE BELIEVED MY STORIES OF HIS UNHOLY NOCTURNAL VISITS. THEY THOUGHT I WAS DELUSIONAL FROM THE FEVER. AND THEN... I DIED.
"I ROSE AS MY FATHER HAD DONE. I LEACHED THE LIFE FROM MY MOTHER AND SISTER. EACH TIME I SAW THEIR TERRIFIED FACES AWAKE TO GREET ME I ENDURED THE TORMENT OF A THOUSAND HELLS. AND YET I COULD NOT STOP.
SOON I HAD TAKEN THEIR LIVES, AS MY FATHER HAD MINE. WITH THE FAMILY ALL IN THEIR GRAVES, THE CURSE NO LONGER COMPELLED ME TO RISE. MY SOUL STILL KNEW NO REST, BUT LIMBO WAS A RELIEF COMPARED TO THE FEEDINGS.

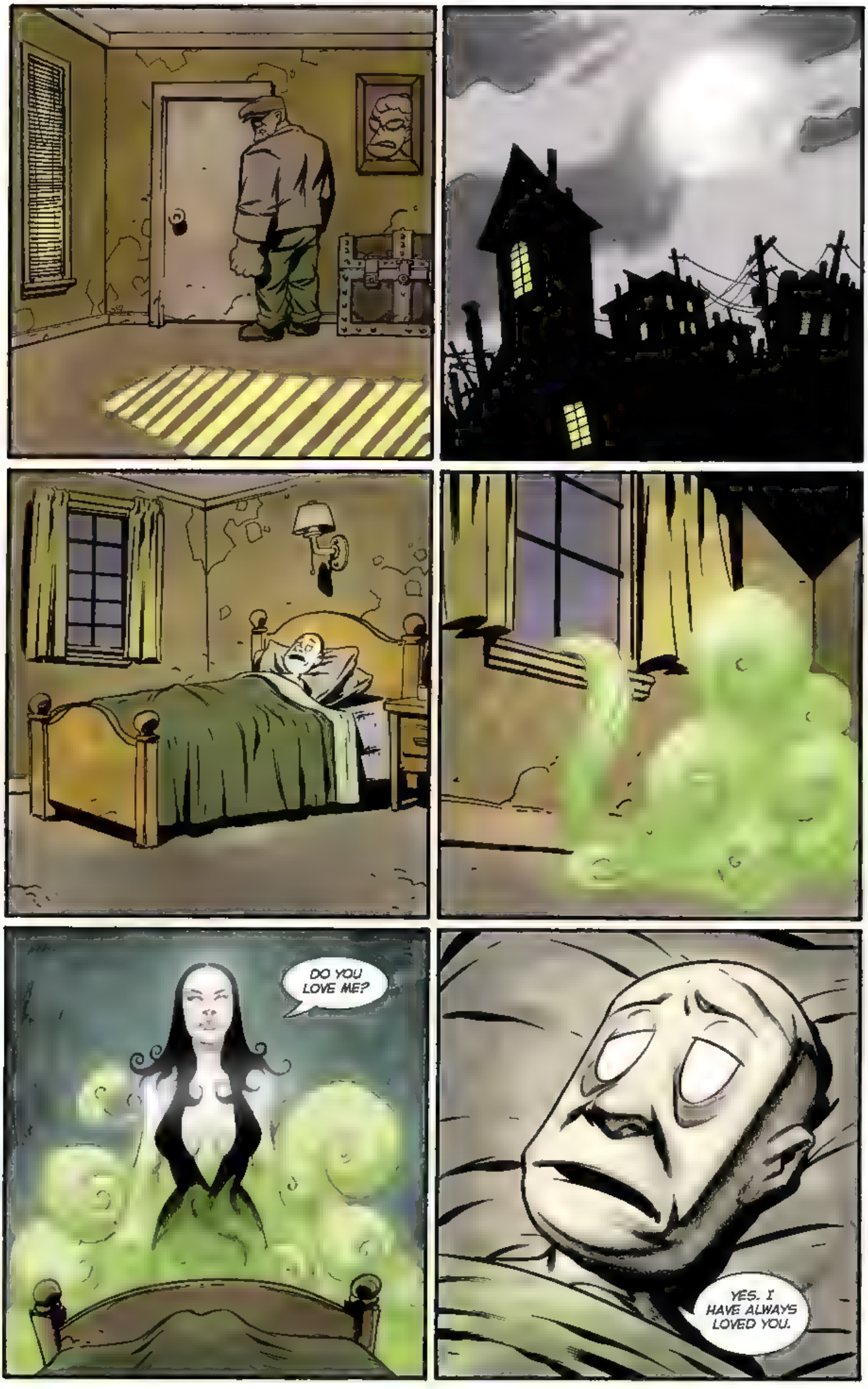
BUT NOW YOU HAVE AWAKENED ME WITHOUT PURPOSE. WITHOUT THE CURSE TO FULFILL, I WILL BE FORCED TO ETERNALLY ROAM THE EARTH! FEEDING ON THE INNOCENT! WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS TO ME?!
NO NEED TO THANK US!
THE MORTALS WILL QUAKE AS YOUR EBON WINGS VEIL OUT THE DAWN! THE CRIMSON FLOW WILL--
FOOLS!!
DOES IT GIVE WORTH TO YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE TO PLAYACT THIS EVIL FARCE?!
BUT DO NOT FEAR THAT ALL OF YOUR PITIABLE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN! MANY WILL SUFFER FOR WHAT YOU HAVE AWAKENED ANEW! TAKE PRIDE THAT YOU PEACOCKS WILL BE THE FIRST VICTIMS OF THIS TRUE VAMPIRE!

DON'T TELL ME WHOSE TURNIP IT IS. I KNOWS MY TURNIP WHEN I SEES IT.
JOIN ME IN THE EARTH AND WE WILL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
COME TO ME.
HUH?!
DO YOU LOVE ME?
YES. I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
COUGH! COUGH!


Norton's PUB
HEY, GOON, YOU GOTTA SEE THIS! SPIDER BET CHARLIE NOODLES HE COULDN'T FIT A WHOLE CAN OF SHOE POLISH UP HIS NOSE!
NO THANKS. I THINK I'M GONNA CALL IT A NIGHT.
WHAT? BUT IT'S STILL EARLY!
I AIN'T IN THE MOOD.
LEMME GUESS. YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
SHOOT ME THE EVIL EYE ALL YOU WANT. CHINATOWN WAS A LONG TIME AGO. YOU'VE GOTTA GET OVER IT SOMETIME.
SOMETIMES YOU DON'T GET OVER IT.

DAMN THAT WOMAN!
GIMME A WHISKEY, NORTON.
HEY, LADY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE WALKIN' AROUND THIS PLACE ALONE. ESPECIALLY IN THAT GET UP.
COME TO ME.
JEEZ, YOU GLAMOUR TYPES ARE ALL THE SAME. FLASH YER RACK AND YA THINK YA CAN TURN A FELLA INTA YER PET IDIOT!
WHOA! HEY, FRANKY, GET A LOAD OF HER!
SAY, THAT'S SOME DAME! I AIN'T NEVER SEEN HER IN HERE BEFORE.

I WONDER IF SHE'S INTO THE HANDSOME-KID-SWEEPING-FLOORS-AT-A-GIN-JOINT TYPE?!
HOLD ON THERE, SKINNY! THIS IS MAN'S WORK!
IT WOULDN'T BE POLITE FOR THE PROPRIETOR TO NOT SAY HELLO TO A NEW PATRON!
IT'S ELEVEN THIRTY, FRANKY! YOU GETTIN' UP OR NOT?
I TOLD SMITTY I WAS GONNA BREAK HIS LEGS IF HE DIDN'T PAY ME BY NOON, AND I DON'T WANT TA BE LATE!
I... I AIN'T FEELIN' SO GOOD. THINK I'M JUST GONNA SLEEP IN.
DID YOU BUY MORE OF THAT HOMEMADE JERKY FROM THAT HAIRY FELLA THAT SMELLS LIKE FISH?
NO. I JUST DON'T FEEL GOOD. CLOSE THEM BLINDS ON THE WAY OUT, WOULD YA? IT'S TOO BRIGHT IN HERE.
Click!


DO YOU LOVE ME?
YES. I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.

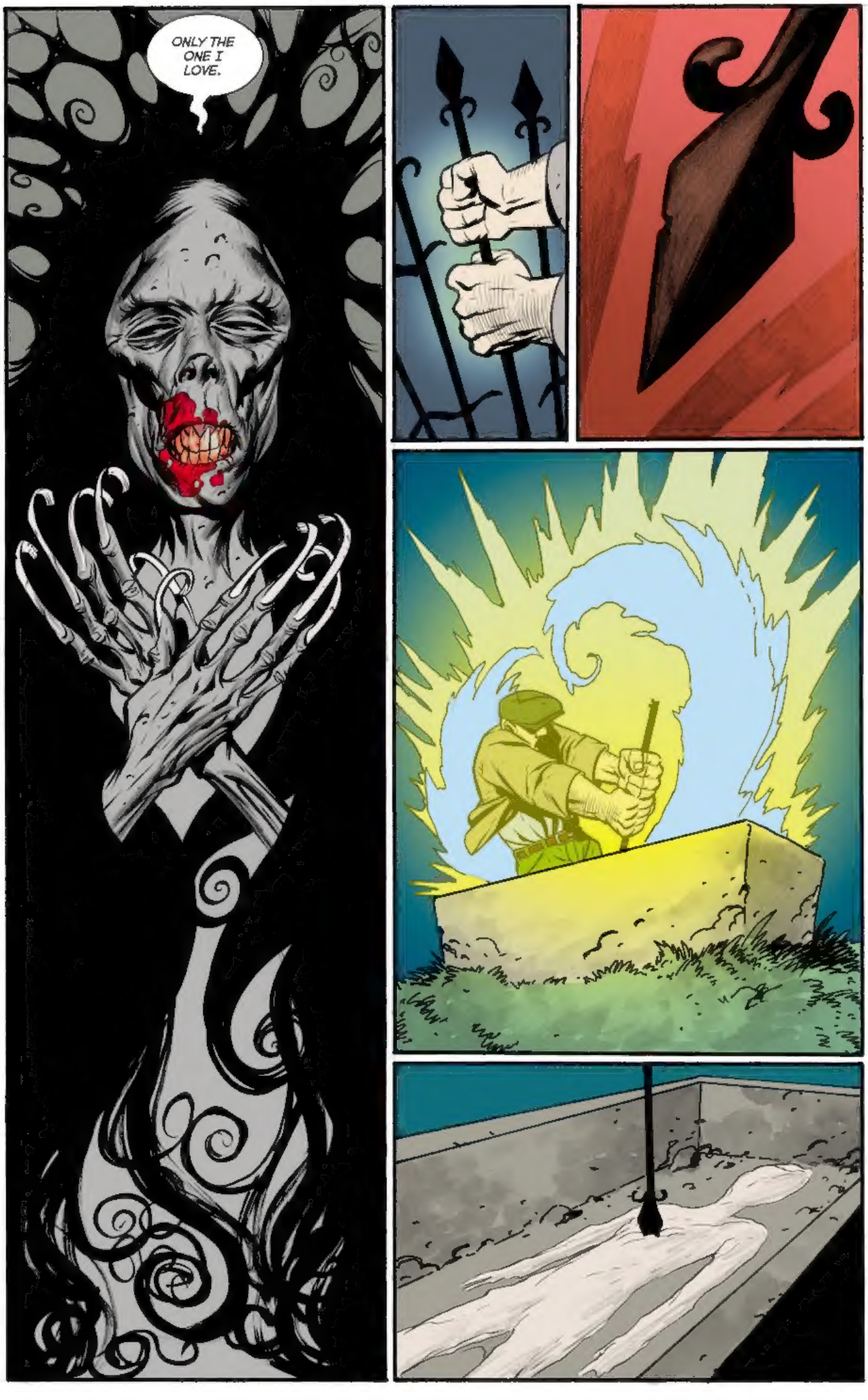
SHE IS COMING FOR ME. WE WILL FOR ALWAYS BE TOGETHER IN THE EARTH.
WHAT'S WITH EVERYBODY TONIGHT?
WHERE'S YOUR BOY, MOMMA NORTON? WHY AIN'T HE TENDIN' BAR?
GOON! YOU AIN'T SICK?!
NO, I AIN'T SICK. WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
THERE'S A PLAGUE COME DOWN!
IN MY MIND'S EYE I SEE A DARK WOMAN OF SUBTLE COMPLEXION! SHE'S FEEDING HER PESTILENCE ON THE WEAKNESS OF MEN!
BEWARE THE EXOTIC WOMAN AND HER FEMININE WILES! BEWARE HER EYES!
UH, YEAH.
SOUND ADVICE AS USUAL, MOMMA NORTON. I'LL SEE YA.

COME TO ME, BE WITH ME IN THE EARTH.
GAH!
COME TO ME.
YES.
NO!
MOMMA NORTON WAS RIGHT! YOU'RE SOME KIND OF LIFE-SUCKIN' JEZEBEL, AIN'T YA?!
COME TO ME NOW! BE WITH ME FOREVER!
Y-YES.

COME TO ME.
WILL YOU BE MINE FOREVER?
YES.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
NO.

WHAT?!
I LOVE ANOTHER.
HOW COULD THIS MAN DENY ME? IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
HE IS SO... BROKEN. HE IS TRAGEDY. PAIN.
I HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH A SOUL THAT SUFFERS AS THIS ONE DOES-- UNLESS PERHAPS MY OWN. ON HIS BACK LAY THE UNJUST SORROWS OF A LIFE HEAPED IN CALAMITY. TAKE MY PITY, MY LOVE. TAKE THE PITY OF THE PITIABLE DAMNED.

AND NOW MY OWN PAIN IS MAGNIFIED. HOW COULD MY TORMENTED BEING NOT LOVE SUCH A MAN THE MOMENT OUR SOULS TOUCHED? FOR THE FIRST TIME I CAN DENY THE IMPULSE TO FEED. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME I LOVE AND IT CAN NEVER BE RETURNED.
OUR ESSENCES HAVE MINGLED, AND HE KNOWS ME NOW AS WELL AS HE HAS KNOWN ANYONE. WE HAVE SUFFERED IN EACH OTHER'S PAIN, AND I ASK HIM FOR MERCY.
IT CAN ONLY BE BY YOUR HAND.
I KNOW.


ONLY THE ONE I LOVE.

WHEW! IT'S A WONDER WHAT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WILL DO FOR YA! I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN!
BUT... I HAD THIS DREAM ABOUT A SEXY DAME THAT WAS TRYIN' TA SUCK THE LIFE OUTTA ME.
WONDER WHAT THE HEAD SHRINKERS WOULD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT. PROBABLY THAT I WAS AFRAID OF WOMEN OR SOMETHIN'. WHATTA YA THINK, GOON?

EMPIRE